

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) Zinc aluminate, having, after being calcined at least at 800°C for 8 hours, a specific surface area of at least $85 \text{ mg}^2/\text{g}$.
2. (Previously Presented) Zinc aluminate according to claim 1, having, after being calcined at 800°C for 8 hours, a specific surface area of at least $100 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.
3. (Previously Presented) Zinc aluminate according to claim 1, having, after being calcined at 900°C for 2 hours, a specific surface area of at least $70 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.
4. (Previously Presented) Zinc aluminate according to claim 1, having, after being calcined at 1000°C for 6 hours, a specific surface area of at least $50 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.
5. (Previously Presented) Zinc aluminate according to claim 1, having, after being calcined at 1000°C for 6 hours, in an $\text{H}_2\text{O}/\text{N}_2$ medium with 10% H_2O by volume, a specific surface area of at least $50 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

6. (Previously Presented) Zinc aluminate according to claim 1, comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of the elements of Groups IA, IIA, VIIA to IB of the Periodic Table and from tin, gallium and the rare earths.

7. (Currently Amended) Precursor composition for a zinc aluminate, comprising compounds of zinc and aluminium aluminum which are capable of forming, after being calcined, a zinc aluminate, said aluminate having, after being calcined at least at 800°C for 8 hours, a specific surface area of at least 85 m²/g.

8. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 7, which is capable of forming an aluminate having, after being calcined at 800°C for 8 hours, a specific surface area of at least 90 m²/g.

9. (Previously Presented) Composition according to claim 7 comprising at least one compound of an element selected from the group consisting of Groups IA, IIA, VIIA to IB of the Periodic Table and from tin, gallium and the rare earths.

10. (Currently Amended) Process for the preparation of an aluminate according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- bringing a zinc salt, zinc sol or zinc alkoxide and an aluminium aluminum alkoxide together in a solvent medium, optionally with a salt, sol or alkoxide of at least one additive;
- hydrolysing hydrolyzing the mixture thus formed by adding water in an excess amount with respect to the aluminium aluminum alkoxide;
- recovering the precipitate formed and optionally drying, thereby obtaining the precursor composition;
- if required, calcining said precipitate, thereby obtaining the aluminate.

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11. (Currently Amended) Process for the preparation of an aluminate comprising an additive according to claim 6, comprising the following steps:

- bringing a zinc salt, zinc sol or zinc alkoxide and an aluminium alkoxide together in a solvent medium;
- hydrolyzing the mixture thus formed by adding water in an excess amount with respect to the aluminium aluminum alkoxide;
- recovering the precipitate formed and optionally drying, thereby obtaining the precursor composition;
- if required, calcining said precipitate, thereby obtaining the aluminate;
- the precursor composition or the aluminate is impregnated with a solution of a salt of the additive or the element.

13. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 10, wherein water in the form of a water-alcohol mixture is added.

14. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 10, wherein the zinc salt and the aluminum alkoxide are brought together by adding the zinc salt in the solvent medium to the aluminum alkoxide.

15. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 10, wherein the precipitate is calcined at a temperature of at least 500°C.

16. (Previously Presented) Process for the treatment of gases for reducing the emissions of nitrogen oxides, comprising using a catalytic system comprising an aluminate according to claim 1.

17. (Previously Presented) Process for the treatment of exhaust gases of motor vehicles, comprising using a catalytic system comprising an aluminate according to claim 1.

18. (Previously Presented) Process for the treatment of gases having a high oxygen content from motor vehicles, comprising using a catalytic system comprising an aluminate according to claim 1.

19. (Previously Presented) Catalytic system for the treatment of gases for reducing the emissions of nitrogen oxides comprising an aluminate according to claim 1 on a substrate.

20. (Previously Presented) A catalytic system for the treatment of gases for reducing the emissions of nitrogen oxides comprising a precursor composition according to claim 7.

21. (New) Process according to claim 10, wherein the step of hydrolyzing the mixture comprises adding water such that the excess amount is sufficient to provide a molar ratio of water to aluminum alkoxide of at least 6.

22. (New) Process according to claim 10, wherein the aluminate has a Zn to Al ratio of less than 0.4, and wherein the step of hydrolyzing the mixture comprises adding water such that the excess amount is sufficient to provide a molar ratio of water to aluminum alkoxide of at least 3.

23. (New) Process according to claim 11, wherein the step of hydrolyzing the mixture comprises adding water such that the excess amount is sufficient to provide a molar ratio of water to aluminum alkoxide of at least 6.

24. (New) Process according to claim 12, wherein the aluminate has a Zn to Al ratio of less than 0.4, and wherein the step of hydrolyzing the mixture comprises adding water such that the excess amount is sufficient to provide a molar ratio of water to aluminum alkoxide of at least 3.
